



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2011

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COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE OHIO SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5

(Columbus, Ohio) This morning, during the Commissioners' regularly scheduled General Session meeting Franklin County Commissioners unanimously [approved a resolution opposing the passage of Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 5.](#)

Since 1983 Ohio's collective bargaining law has provided a framework that has made strikes rare and short in duration, best protecting the public's health, safety and welfare and ensuring the effective use of taxpayer dollars through local-decision making.

"We are urging the Ohio General Assembly to stand up for hard-working families and amend or defeat the passage of Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 5," said Commission President Marilyn Brown.

Ohio Substitute Senate Bill 5 would prohibit counties, cities and other local government employers from continuing to negotiate employee benefit plan coverage and set local community-based policy standards for public employment benefits creates an additional unfunded state mandate and impedes management's efficiency and the effective use of tax dollars.

In Franklin County, fiscal stability and a successful Cooperative Benefits Program have been achieved through sound actuarial advice and effective give-and-take actions of the managerial and labor members of the Joint Benefits Committee.

The Joint Benefits Committee has effectively managed growth in Benefit Program costs through coverage changes, higher employee deductibles, co-payments and premium costs and through other concessions that would have likely been prohibited by the unfunded mandates imposed by Substitute Senate Bill 5.

"The General Assembly should conduct a fair and thorough fact-finding review before jumping to pass S.B. 5. In this current form, the bill amounts to an unfunded state mandate that will hamper efficient county service delivery, hurting the taxpayers, citizens and public servants," said Commissioner Paula Brooks.

"Hard-working Franklin County families are struggling just to make ends meet," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "Instead of engaging in political posturing, Ohio lawmakers

should be focused on creating good jobs for the hundreds of thousands of unemployed residents in communities throughout Ohio”